

UNCLASSIFIED PTQ3233

PAGE 01 HARARE 02361 091342Z  
ACTION INR-00

INFO LOG-00 NP-00 AF-00 A-00 ACQ-00 CIAE-00 INL-00  
DODE-00 DS-00 EUR-00 UTED-00 VC-00 TEDE-00 LAB-01  
VCE-00 NSAE-00 TEST-00 USIE-00 IIP-00 DSAC-00 DRL-02  
NFAT-00 SAS-00 /003W

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FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9432  
INFO NSC WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY WINDHOEK  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE  
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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SIPDIS

AF/PD FOR COX, ROBERTSON, AF/S FOR KRAFT, AF/P, INR/R/MR,  
NSC FOR JENDAYI FRAZER

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: ZI PREL PHUM  
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ZIMBABWE DEMOCRACY BILL; HARARE

11. UNDER HEADLINE "U. S. DEMOCRACY BILL DRACONIAN: IN WHOSE INTEREST IS THE LEGISLATION?", THE AUGUST 7 EDITION UNCLASSIFIED

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OF THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED DAILY 'THE HERALD' CARRIED A LENGTHY FEATURE ARTICLE THAT WAS CRITICAL OF THE BILL.  
EXCERPTS FOLLOW:

12. ". . . IN WHOSE INTEREST WAS THE BILL PASSED. . . ? IT IS CLEAR THAT THE BILL HAS COME ABOUT AS A RESULT OF PRESIDENT MUGABE'S UNCOMPROMISING STANCE ON THE LAND ISSUE, AND ANYTHING ELSE THAT IS SAID, INCLUDING PERCEIVED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND LACK OF RULE OF LAW, IS JUST A SMOKE-SCREEN TO COVER THE REAL PURPOSE OF THE BILL. THE CONTROVERSIAL PIECE OF LEGISLATION IS MEANT TO PUNISH ZIMBABWE FOR DOING THE RIGHT THING FOR ITS PEOPLE - REDISTRIBUTING LAND EQUALLY AMONG ALL CITIZENS IRRESPECTIVE OF COLOR, RELIGION OR POLITICAL AFFILIATION. . . ."

HOOKS

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